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Nation

Making a list & checking it twice

The Nation's Christmas gift guide

A battle over the 'overlap'

Trio of Quebec First Nations to contest 1970s northern Quebec agreements

Grant program seeds Cree entrepreneurs

Funding new businesses in Eeyou Istchee

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Setting the record straight on the JBNQA

by Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees

On November 13, 2014, 40 years after the signing of the Agreement in Principle leading to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), Chiefs of the Innu, Attikamekw Nations and certain Anishinaabe communities announced the formation of a coalition to defend the Aboriginal title and rights they claim were extinguished in the territory covered by the JBNQA.

The goal of their opposition, they state, is not to attack the JBNQA but rather to have the "extinguishment" clause declared illegal and inapplicable to them.

This opposition is not new and in 1975 was the object of representations to Canada and Quebec and court proceedings to prevent the signing of the JBNQA.

I believe it is important to set the record straight historically, to explain briefly why the Cree Nation does not agree with the coalition's interpretation of the so-called "extinguishment" clause and to reiterate the position of the Cree Nation regarding the rights claimed by the coalition in the JBNQA territory.

In 1912, the federal and provincial statutes extending the boundaries of Quebec to Ungava Bay provided that Quebec would recognize the rights of the Indian inhabitants in the territory and obtain surrender of such rights in the same manner as the Government of Canada had done elsewhere.

By the time of the James Bay Project (1972), neither Canada nor Quebec recognized the Aboriginal rights of the Indians. After a lengthy court hearing, Justice Albert Malouf granted an interlocutory injunction halting the James Bay project on the basis of Cree and Inuit rights. This judgment was suspended shortly in appeal.

The Indians of Quebec Association (IQA) supported the Cree and Inuit in the court battle. The Innu, Attikamekw and Algonquins were part of the IQA. However, the objective of the IQA was to obtain a global settlement for all Indians of Quebec. Because of the clash between Cree and Inuit rights and the hydro project the Cree and Inuit decided to negotiate.

Canada and Quebec insisted that the JBNQA and federal legislation deal with all the portion of Quebec transferred in 1898 and 1912 (about 60% of the land within Quebec's modern boundaries) and that the rights in and to this territory of all Indians and all Inuit would be extinguished but without prejudice to the claims for compensation of any other Indians or Inuit. This extinguishment related only to the right to the exclusive use and occupation of lands.

After the Agreement in Principle, the Crees met with the Innu of Schefferville and the Naskapis and urged them to negotiate. The Innu refused and opposed the extinguishment clause and tried to block the signing.

The Naskapi, despite the presence of the extinguishment clause in the JBNQA and in the Bill C9, entered into the Northeastern Quebec Agreement in 1978.

The Crees have taken the position that the clause did not include natural resources but only a sharing of the lands. This position was asserted in the Great Whale River and forestry proceedings and is implicitly recognized in La Paix des Braves.

Nonetheless, the Crees do not concede that their Aboriginal rights have been extinguished. Furthermore, the last 40 years have seen some 24 amendments to the JBNQA and a total of 75 agreements involving the Cree Nation and Quebec and/or Canada.

Finally, the Cree Nation has participated in meetings to attempt to accommodate the traditional activities practised by other First Nations in parts of the JBNQA territory. The Cree Nation is prepared even to consider amending the JBNQA.

However, the Cree Nation is not prepared to reopen the constitutionalized JBNQA, so recently described by the Supreme Court of Canada as an epic achievement.

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Making a list & checking it twice
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photo by:
Brendan Forward

Christmas crisis

by Sonny Orr

With Christmas just around the corner I'm thinking of what I should give this year that would be a little different. Should I try making something or buying it?

I can't make the things I usually give. Like for instance, 20 pairs of socks or mittens, something that any person with knitting skills could produce in under a week or two. That's out of the question, since I end up saying darn it more often that knot. Or, I could bake something rum flavoured. But since the flavour might be too overpowering for the young ones and it's hard to tell a screaming kid that something that looks and tastes so good can't be eaten by anyone under 18, rum balls are out.

I could try carving Elvis replicas. At least that's what my handmade Santas look like by the time the rum balls are finished. I could try moulding foam into a toilet seat for outhouses, but, that was nice back in the day and besides, foam wasn't even invented yet. So, warm foam toilet seats for the great outdoors, although a great idea might tend to make the recipient think twice about me. So I'll have to sign the gift tag from Santa, just so no one would know.

Perhaps a sentimental gift, something about 40 years old and likely to be an antique in a few generations, like my hip waders, which aren't too shabby. And who knows, maybe rubber trees will go extinct and this could actually gain in value within a decade or two. My Commodore 64, although archaic in design, could be something that might look good in someone's antique display case.

Making everyone nostalgic over baby pictures might be good if your baby was cute, like I was, according to many who viewed my picture. But I could just mess it up with Photoshop and add a nice butt a la Kardashian and would probably end up hanging up in the closet. Any pictures of other babies would do, but it's hard to differentiate one from another and could mess up everyone in the future when someone cries out in alarm, claiming to be from another family. So, pictures are out.

Perhaps some seeds for a pretty flower might be good for those with a green thumb, but for others, I don't think I could take the middle-of-the-night calls on how to nurse a plant back to life. A good farmer's almanac might have to be added to the seeds and a bag of smelly compost, but it might end up back as part of the landfill by year's end.

I could wander the streets carolling for my neighbours, but that might attract the dogs that may end up joining me in my rendition of Howl-ey Night. Then the Public Safety people might cite me for disturbing the holiday peace.

Or I could volunteer my time decorating outdoors with endless snow angels in the deep drifts of snow, though the police might pick me up for apparent vagrancy. If all else fails, I could spend a pretty penny and drive a few thousand kilometres to a dollar store, then back before anyone notices my absence. But I wouldn't want my disappearance to be noticeable come suppertime.

Like many a shopper and those who just can't seem to find that perfect gift that fits your budget, you can always say that it's the thought that counts. Merry Christmas everyone!

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L. Stewart, W. Nicholls,
M. Siberok, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
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IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR
Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR
Lyle Stewart, Martin Siberok

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
R. Mayer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
M. Coon Come, A. Reid A. German,
J. Barde, J. East, S. Orr, X. Kataquapit,

PHOTOGRAPHY
L. Stewart, A. German, N. Diamond,
W. Nicholls, D. Valade

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Danielle Valade, Lyle Brebner

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
R. Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403, MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
The Nation HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0
www.nationnews.ca

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:
Editorial: nation@nationnews.ca
news@nationnews.ca
Ads: for Danielle Valade
ads@nationnews.ca
for Lyle Brebner
publicity@nationnews.ca
Classifieds: news@nationnews.ca

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Grant program seeds Cree entrepreneurs

Funding new businesses in Eeyou Istchee in order to create jobs and self-reliance

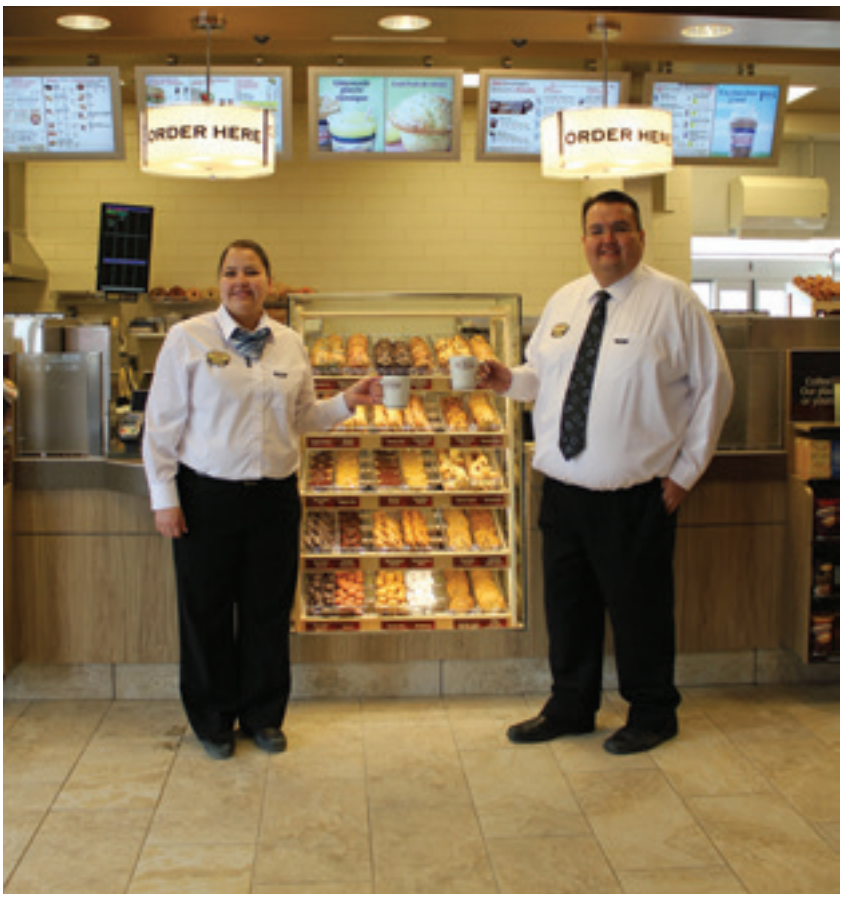
by Alexander Reid

Since its creation three years ago, the Cree Entrepreneur Assistance Fund (CEAF) has fully or partially funded over 34 Cree business projects in the James Bay area. Founded by the Department of Sustainable and Economic Development (DESD) under the supervision of the Cree Regional Authority, CEAF's mission is to assist Cree entrepreneurial projects to empower and reinforce self-sufficient, sustainable economic growth in Cree communities. Grants from the CEAF are non-repayable, and are intended to serve as seed money to help Cree entrepreneurs cover various business-related expenses.

"We gear the fund mainly towards private individuals who want to start a private enterprise in their community," said CEAF director Alfred Loon. "You have to be a Cree beneficiary under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement. The band-owned projects and community businesses, or the Cree Cultural Group are not eligible for this program."

The program receives its funding from the federal government in accordance with section 28 of the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

CEAF grants can make a significant difference to new entrepreneurs struggling with the financial strain of starting a small business in a remote, sparsely populated region. Start-up expenses including new building supplies, equipment and construction costs, as well as expansion projects and modernization initiatives for established businesses, are all viable expenditures for CEAF grant spending. Depending on the cost/benefit analysis of the proposed project, entrepreneurs with successful applications could receive grants to $50,000. The grants are a one-time source of funding, however, and recipients are obligated to use the money according to their pre-approved business plan.



Anthony and Elaine MacLeod at the opening of their Tim Hortons in Mistissini, which was partially funded through a grant from the CEAF.

Anthony and Elaine MacLeod used money from a CEAF grant to help with start-up costs for the A&E Services Tim Hortons in Mistissini, which they own and operate.

"There are ups and downs in starting a business," said Anthony MacLeod. "Work hard! Don't give up! That's how it is with us, and that's how we've become successful."

Their restaurant now provides regular employment for 40 Mistissini residents.

Mistissini entrepreneur Michel Shecapio was awarded a grant from CEAF to help pay for GPS equipment during the start-up phase of his business, M.Y. Surveying. His company is now the only Cree surveying service provider in the region, and offers seasonal employment opportunities.

"Right now I have 12 surveyors working for me, last summer I had 20," said Shecapio

An internal CEAF project-status report to the Cree Nation Government, dated July 24, 2014, reported that Mistissini received the most business grants with a total of 11. The second-highest number, seven, went to Chisasibi. The second-lowest number of business grants was a four-way tie, with Oujé-Bougoumou, Nemaska, Wemindji and Eastmain each receiving two. Whapmagoostui received only one business grant.

Of the 34 funding projects listed in the CEAF report, all of them have either been completed, or are progressing according to plan. The only project in the report listed as a "Non-Success" was CBBK's Convenience in Whapmagoostui. The grant recipient for the project, Brian Wynne, said that work had been temporarily delayed by an unexpected illness, and his business plan has changed from opening a convenience store to opening a canteen, but he has no plans to quit.

"They almost diagnosed me with cancer," said Wynne. "The doctors said I'm in recovery now and have one more hospital appointment on December 4. If all goes well the project is going to move forward, and hopefully we can open the store sometime in December."

The Quebec government allotted an initial $2.5 million for the program at the outset, and Loon said the province is committed to ensuring CEAF remains well funded. To date, CEAF has handed out more than $1.2 million in grants to Cree-owned businesses, which have created almost 150 new jobs with a projected total of 182 to be created once all the enterprises are fully operational.

James Bay residents are encouraged to independently develop business plans, and approach the economic development officer (EDO) responsible for their region. The EDO will assess the goals and capabilities of the applicant, then evaluate their business plan and assist with any necessary changes to make the plan fit CEAF eligibility criteria. Those who are ready to apply immediately can do so directly online at: www.gcc.ca.

For more information about the CEAF including eligibility criteria and a full list of conditions, see the Grand Council of the Crees website at: www.gcc.ca.

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And visit: www.creedevelopmentcorporation.ca

Additional information at this Wikepedia page: www.goo.gl/ah4kdq

Please submit to:

Donna L Hester
Communication Advisor
dlhester@cra.qc.ca

**Feel free to contact the above via email for contest rules and inquiries.

A battle over the 'overlap'

Trio of Quebec First Nations to contest 1970s northern Quebec agreements

by Joel Barde

Three Quebec First Nations say that their traditional territory partly overlaps with land included in the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) and the Northeastern Quebec Agreement (NEQA), signed in 1978. They are now asking for the federal government to step in to negotiate a settlement over the contested territory to give them a stake in its economic development.

On November 13, representatives of the Anishinabek, Atikamekw and Innu First Nations held a press conference in Montreal to demand recognition over their claimed title to territory negotiated under the two agreements.

They say a portion of the JBNQA extinguishes the rights of any First Nations – even those that did not sign it – to title over any of territory negotiated in the deal.

The Cree and Inuit, who were given broad administrative and political powers and a cash settlement in exchange for the concession, negotiated the landmark agreement.

But the Anishinabek, Atikamekw and Innu coalition say they were never consulted in the negotiations, and that it should therefore not apply to them.

So far, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has refused to consider negotiating the contested territory with any of the coalition nations.

In a statement printed in the Montreal Gazette, Aboriginal Affairs was categorical in its long-standing position that any of the coalition's grievances must be taken up with the agreement's signatories – the Cree and Inuit.

> THE ANISHINABEK, ATIKAMEKW AND INNU COALITION SAY THEY WERE NEVER CONSULTED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT IT SHOULD THEREFORE NOT APPLY TO THEM.

"We encourage the coalition communities to negotiate bilateral agreements with the beneficiaries of the (James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement) and the Northeastern Quebec Agreement, allowing for the practice of traditional activities on their respective territory," said the statement from Aboriginal Affairs.

But according to Constant Awashish, Grand Chief of the Atikamekw, this amounts to a classic divide-and-conquer technique, and the government has a "fiduciary responsibility" to step in and correct a problem it created.

Awashish told *the Nation* that he wants to make it clear to Cree people that he is not opposed to the JBNQA or the Crees.

"We want them to know that we're not targeting them. But we are targeting the government. It's the government that needs to solve the problem they created," said Awashish.

He says people in his communities continue to hunt in Atikamekw territory covered under the JBNQA as they did long before the agreement was negotiated.

Awashish says the next step is to launch legal action. He was coy about its details, but did indicate it will be directed at the government.

"How can they extinguish our rights if we were not part of their agreement?" he asked.

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Pipeline protest

A loud environmental protest wove its way through the streets of downtown Montreal November 15 to protest a planned petroleum pipeline project through Quebec.

Organized by Étudiants et étudiantes contre les oléoducs, the protest was attended by around 300 people. A marching band accompanied the demonstrators, as they shouted and sang anti-oil slogans.

Though no one was arrested, the protest was declared illegal by Montreal police as students did not seek a permit.

Placards denounced the Plan Nord and the Energy East Pipeline, a proposed pipeline that would carry oil sand bitumen through Quebec and New Brunswick. Critics say it would expand the oil sands and increase global warming.

A spokesperson from Greenpeace told the crowd the Quebec government is crying financial crisis in order to push through controversial projects that will damage the environment.

Robin Reid-Fraser, who spoke on behalf of Climate Justice Montreal, underlined in an interview with *the Nation* the importance of First Nations involvement in the cause.

"First Nation folks have been resisting these kinds of developments for decades now. It's really up to white settler folks to take direction and inspiration from First Nations and support their efforts," she said.

Gala recognition

A Mistissini businesswoman has been recognized for her outstanding contributions to her community.

The Mistissini Native Women's Association (MNWA) awarded Beverly Quinn the Woman of the Year of Award for her charity work and her longstanding role in helping to educate young people.

"I was really emotional when I got the award," said Quinn. "I love my community – I really do."

Quinn runs Mistissini's Meechum grocery store. Every Christmas Meechum organizes drives in which people can contribute to food baskets and toys for children in need. Around 80-100 families receive a gift certificate and food baskets, which include a turkey and Mandarin oranges.

Quinn says that as an educator she has seen first-hand some of the challenges faced by her community, and giving back is an important part of her life.

"When you own a business, you see the hardships families deal with. I've never believed a child should go without."

The MNWA gala is an annual event to honour women making positive contributions to the community.

"We can't to this fossil fuel thing anymore. No matter what way you look at it. The pipelines lead to the expansion of the tar sands. And we need to start shutting that down."

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A fog bank looming over Lake Mistissini taken by Brendan Forward

Foggy photo

A Mistissini photographer recently finished as a finalist in a national photo contest.

Brendan Forward's engaging image of a fog bank looming over Lake Mistissini with the community in the background made it through to the final stages of the judging in Nature Canada's annual photo competition.

Forward was camping at the time. He woke up early, set up his gear, and captured the lake at a beautiful moment. "I was at the right place at the right time," he says.

Forward, who works as a communications officer for Cree Human Resources Development, has been taking photos for around a year.

He is passionate about astronomy, and began taking photos of the sky, stars and planets.

But that's all changed. He entered the competition on a whim, and says it has encouraged him to stretch out his artistic chops.

"To become a finalist is motivating. I feel encouraged to work on different projects," said Forward.

The prestigious competition is in its 75th year. To see the winning shot and other runners up, go to: http://naturecanada.ca/initiatives/photo-contest/

BAPE hearings in final phase

Quebec's yearlong inquiry into uranium development entered its final phase of public hearings this month, as representatives from the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) visited Chisasibi November 11 and Mistissini November 13.

The two events allowed community members to voice their concerns and opinions regarding potential uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee. In both Chisasibi and Mistissini, it was clear that public opposition remains fierce. All of the Crees who stepped up to the microphone made it clear that the communities stand united against uranium mining.

Members of the Cree Nation of Mistissini have opposed uranium development since Strateco Resources' Matoush project began taking shape years ago. Strateco shut down its operations at the site 215 km north of the community last June. At that time, Strateco president and CEO Guy Hébert told the Nation that nuclear energy was "very safe" and that the "the Crees need [the Matoush project] for job creation."

Cree leaders disagree. "With the acknowledged detrimental impacts of uranium exploration on the environment and wildlife, we are placed in an unequivocal position, and this is why no such project should go ahead on our land," said Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come echoed Shecapio's sentiments.

"The Cree Nation is convinced, now more than ever, of the significant long-term risks that uranium development would bring to our land. We are not prepared to impose such burdens on our future generations," said Coon-Come in a statement.

Correction

Erratum: the Nation news magazine, Vol. 21-26. There was an error in the text of the Grand Council/Cree Nation Government advertisement supplied to the Nation regarding the date of the signing of the JBNQA. The actual date was on November 11, 1975.

All I want for Christmas is...

When sticking a bow on your forehead isn't good enough

by Amy German

If only grown-ups wrote letters to Santa that featured detailed lists of what they would like for Christmas, included where to get them, how much they would cost, how long they would take to ship and what they would like to go with it.

While nearly every child can detail the wish list of toys they've sent to Santa Claus, gift shopping for the rest of the people on your list can be a bit more challenging.

This is why we at *the Nation* have scoured the Internet for the best in Christmas gift suggestions. Whether your special someone is a skillful hunter, glamorous gal, fashion-challenged fella, technology junkie, foodie, ultimate sports fan or a little one who can't tell you what they want, we have lots of suggestions and web links that can help.

GLAMOROUS GOODIES FOR GIRLY GIRLS

Whether she is the kind of gal who needs pampering or just your average hard-working super-woman due for a little bit of "me time," Sequoia's Native Inspired Bath and Beauty Products has a wide variety of hand-made soaps, scrubs, body sprays, lotions, balms, body butters and bath bombs to help her unwind.

With products inspired by Native culture and legends, Sequoia features products with names like Turtle Island, Sky Woman, Warrior Blood and Red Clover and has scent lines that feature sweet grass, sage and blackberries, red clover and other scintillating, soothing or inspiring varieties.

With gift packages that start as low as $20, these fine cosmetics – handmade in Kahnawake by Mohawk women – have been featured in all sorts of major magazines and have become a treasured favourite for many around the world.

www.sequoia.ca

A perfect gift for the woman you like to give flowers, the Amazon Curated Collection line of jewellery, available exclusively at Amazon.ca, features all kinds of unique goodies for every taste.

Retailing for $33, this Sterling Silver Pressed Flower Oval Pendant Necklace with 18-inch chain is

This Blackberry Sage Canoe Candle comes in a light purple color and is a best seller at Sequoia

pressed flower jewellery handcrafted from real flowers and preserved in a clear resin pendant, to create unique feminine pieces for those who want to bring a tiny bouquet everywhere.

www.amazon.ca

If you are on the market for the kind of gift that would make your curvy lady feel sexy on Christmas morning, look no further than Hips & Curves.com to order a gorgeous surprise for her to open below the mistletoe, when it's just the two of you celebrating.

Featuring a wide variety of plus-sized lingerie and sleepwear, this online store celebrates a woman's womanliness with lace, silks and everything else our minds can associate with sensuality.

If you are looking to go with something special for the holidays, why not go with this curve accentuating Glamour Girl Nightgown? For just $49.90, this long, lovely nightie will have you wrapped around each other, trying to decide whether it looks better on her or on the floor.

www.hipsandcurves.com/plus-size-glamour-girl-nightgown

For the gal who likes changing her look to suit her mood, the Sephora Collection Chroma Color Eye Palette is a eye makeup palette that features 54 eye shadows, 12 eye pencils and a double-ended eye shadow brush, all in a stylish case that resembles a book. This set is the ultimate gift for those who feel that a makeup palette should be unlimited and that experimentation with colours and shades should be unlimited.

On top of that, this high-end collection is great value at $78, but its actual value is $375 if you were to purchase each of these products individually.

www.sephora.com

If you are looking for splendid simplicity and she is a big fan of pearls, Costco has this 8-9 mm White Cultured Freshwater Pearl Drop Earrings that will without a doubt put a smile to her face. Conservative and sweet, these earrings also feature 14-kt yellow gold lever backing and are as comfortable to wear as they are elegant. Runs for only $99.99.

www.costco.ca

If you want to give her something that glitters and purple is her colour, Birks has these incredible sterling silver and amethyst earrings that are guaranteed to have her sparkling with joy come Christmas morning.

These amethyst sparklers are both modern and classic, in a square cut with an ornate setting. Priced at $150, Birks is offering them as an online special only. So if you think it's what her heart desires, she will thank you forever.

www.maisonbirks.com/en/sterling-silver-amethyst-earrings#more

black Sequin Corset by Hips & Curves

BIRKS Collection: sterling silver, amethyst drop earrings

If she is the kind of gal who is both classic and contemporary, Pandora has a gold and silver Vintage Allure Synthetic Green Spinel charm that will really stand out. Intricate and elegant, this pendant fuses antique charm with modern glamour and is a memorable gift at just $200.

www.pandora.net

For something unique and spectacular that features an Indigenous feel, Haida designer Dorothy Grant has been churning out mind-blowing designs for years and has something to suit any taste and budget.

If you want to indulge her and she is the shawl-wearing type, this crème, red and black silk shawl is fringe trimmed and is the ideal accessory for a gala soiree. At $350, this incredible shawl makes a statement without saying a word!

www.dorothygrant.com/

And, because the holidays are also known as "engagement season," if you are on the market for a special piece of jewellery to get down on one knee with, you have a lot of options.

But, if you want to go with something simple and you have a modest budget, this ½-carat diamond solitaire ring is a delight and may just be what she has been waiting for her whole life. Featuring a round brilliant diamond claw set in the 14kt white gold band, this is just one of the many rings that can be ordered online from Michael Hill jewellers.

www.michaelhill.ca

LUXURIES FOR HIM THAT WON'T INSULT HIS MANLINESS

What to get the guy who needs a little indulgence after his day out in the bush or on the job?

Give him something festive to don on Christmas morning with these "festive heather plaid PJ bottoms" from the Gap. These cotton/rayon blend cuddly PJ bottoms are just the thing for him to lounge about in throughout the holidays and are the perfect thing for him to strike a pose for all of those special gift-opening moments. These well-made pants are available in all sizes.

www.gapcanada.ca

If you are looking to give him something snuggly that he can wear throughout the season, Sears Canada has this "Majestic Hooded Bath Robe," that may just be the thing he lusts to put on after a long, hard day.

Cozy and absorbent for when he hops out of the shower, this robe is made of 100% looped cotton terry on the interior and then a cozy velour type of material on the exterior to make him that much more fun to snuggle with. Also stylish, bathrobe has four colour options and various sizes so that it can fit big or small.

Festive heather plaid PJ bottoms by the Gap

Fitted jacket with medicine wheel on back and feathers on sleeve by Mohawk designer Tammy Beauvais

Well made, easily washable and perfect for those very cold nights that Eeyou Istchee is famous for, this robe runs for just $69.99 and wraps up well under the tree.

www.sears.ca

If he is a fashionable fella who wants to stand out, this unique beadwork print floral dress shirt by Mohawk designer Tammy Beauvais speaks style in volumes and is perfect for a formal event. Priced at $120, this 100% cotton dress shirt is also 100% Native and is a statement piece all on its own.

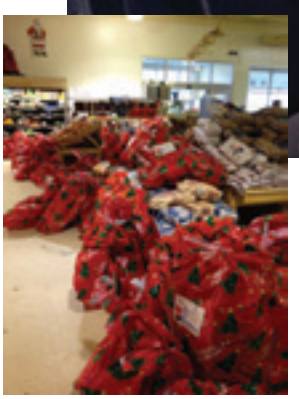
www.tammybeauvais.com/

For the ambitious man, this special edition brown leather bomber jacket will have heads turning on the Rez! This fitted jacket – with a medicine wheel on the back and feathers on the sleeve – is durable, comfortably lined and the perfect fashion piece to display his cultural pride. Priced at $240 and in limited quantities.

For the guy who goes both ways when it comes to shaving – wet for that ultra-close softness or dry when on the go, the new Philips AquaTouch Plus Electric Shaver is a great way to give him the flexibility he craves for a shave.

This face-scraping tool is also the perfect thing for the guy with sensitive skin as it is versatile, can be used

Congratulations to Beverly Quin



The staff at Meechum and family would like to congratulate Beverly Quinn on receiving the award of Woman of the Year for 2014 from the Mistissini Native Women's Association. She was honoured at the Women's Gala for her dedication to the community, helping families in need and for her continued support toward education. Each year, she and a team work to raise funds for the "Wreath of Hope", established to assist families in need throughout the year in Mistissini. At Christmas, food baskets, vouchers for groceries, and gifts for those with young children, are prepared and delivered through Meechum. The "Angel Tree" has been set up each year in the store so community members can select an "angel" and buy a gift for a child in need. We are encouraged by the recognition of her contributions and look forward to another year working together to make the "Wreath of Hope" and "Angel Tree" as successful and special as past years. All this has only been possible with the support of people in Mistissini."

Meetchum

This Dorothy Grant men's wolf vest is made of 100% virgin wool

with gel or foam, glides smoothly over the face, comes with a pop-up trimmer for sideburns and moustache and has some other fun features like a three-minute quick charge for one shave and over 50 minutes of cordless shaving in one charge. A great gift for the guy who is always on the go, the shaver costs $89.96 at Walmart.

www.walmart.ca

For the old-school guy who prefers a traditional shave, this stylish set by Perma Brand features a three-piece shaving set that includes a nickel-plated/black holder, pure badger bristle brush and razor that includes one blade but is also compatible with Mach3 blades. Available at the Centre du Rasoir, it clocks in at $84.98.

www.centredurasoir.com

A good scrub down in the shower can be had with this Jack Black Mr. Big Set. Priced at $102 from Sephora, this gift set features three of Jack Black's most popular men's products to shave, wash and moisturize. Including the Pure Clean Daily Facial Cleanser, Beard Lube Conditioning Shave and the Double-Duty Face Moisturizer, all conveniently packed into their own travel bag, your guy will be looking and smelling delicious.

www.sephora.com

Also from Sephora, this Burberry Men's Mini Coffret features a collection of five remarkable eau de toilette. Creating scents that are supposed to epitomize every aspect of the modern British man (which is great if you want to pretend that your guy is foreign), this masculine set includes 0.15 bottles of Touch For Men Eau De Toilette, Burberry For Men Eau De Toilette, Brit For Men Eau De Toilette, Sport For Men Eau De Toilette and The Beat For Men Eau De Toilette.

www.sephora.com

For the guy who is looking to leave a lasting style impression, this charcoal grey Dorothy Grant men's wolf vest will make him the envy of all of his friends and neighbours. Made of 100% virgin wool, this machine-embroidered vest features a wolf crest on the right chest and a larger wolf design on the back. With buttons down front, bound pockets and banded neck collar, this vest is versatile and remarkable.

www.dorothygrant.com/

Of course, if you really want to go all out, Dorothy Grant makes a custom Haida lambskin leather jacket that is tailored especially to the measurements and the tastes of your guy. Available in different colours and with a variety of Haida designs by Grant, these jackets start at $2,800.

www.dorothygrant.com

GOODIES FOR THE ULTIMATE SPORTS FAN

For the guy or gal who wants to trick out their car in Habs gear to show their team pride or just taunt the neighbours, Canadian Tire has a great collection of Habs-themed car accessories to suit the fancy of any Canadiens fan.

To gussy up their steering wheel and keep it cozy for those long drives, this Montreal Canadiens Steering Wheel Cover is just the thing and is only $15.99.

www.canadiantire.ca

To remind all of your passengers who you think should be bringing home the cup this year, these Montreal Canadiens all-season rubber floor mats go nicely with the steering wheel and retail for $29.59.

www.canadiantire.ca

And, if you're already buying the two aforementioned Habs-themed items, why not take your fandom one step further with this Montreal Canadiens seat cover? Not only is it a great way to protect a car's original upholstery, these Habs logos are much more visible from a distance, particularly to Bruins and Maple Leafs fans.

At $21.59 each, they are the perfect way to round off a set of Habs-themed car gifts for the ultimate fan!

www.canadiantire.ca

Remember those creepy inflatable clowns that had the sand in the bottom so that you could whack them and they would bounce right back? Well, now they have been brilliantly reinvented as "hockey guys" that can feature the logos of your most or least favourite teams so that the whole family can take out their frustrations on the team that's messing with your heroes.

Starting at around $29.99, Hockey Guy Bop Bags are available in various team jerseys, depending on what you're looking for – including New York Islanders, Buffalo Sabres, Pittsburgh Penguins, New Jersey Devils, New York Rangers and Boston Bruins.

www.purehockey.com

Toronto Maple Leafs Inflatable Chair

For Philadelphia Flyers, Chicago Blackhawks, Montreal Canadiens, Vancouver Canucks, Pittsburgh Penguins and Toronto Maple Leafs varieties.

www.babyskates.com/buy-your-baby-skates-accessories.php

For the hunter who loves the Habs, this special sweatshirt makes a wonderful Christmas present as it magically brings together both worlds! Available from the Habs official website, the Men's Montreal Canadiens

Old Time Hockey RealTree Hackett Hoodie! Retailing for $99.59, this gem is the perfect thing to remind your friends and family where your loyalties lie.

http://shop.canada.nhl.com

Have you ever had extra family or friends over to watch the game only to realize that you don't have enough seating for everyone? Well, Walmart has just the solution for you with these Inflatable NHL Chairs. Available in Toronto Maple Leafs, Calgary Flames and Detroit Red Wings varieties, not only do these chairs provide space-saving solutions but they are also a great way to show your team spirit – or single out the Maple Leafs fans in the room. Available exclusively online, these chairs start at $36.10.

www.walmart.ca

If you've ever heard the popular Quebec expression – "Ça sent la coupe" – this NHL Stanley Cup Popcorn Maker is a new twist on that phrase. Available online at the NHL's official shop, this fantastic popcorn maker claims to be about as fast as a microwave since it is a hot air popper and so it makes your popcorn without oil. An officially licensed replica of the Stanley Cup, it's just the thing to bring out to a play-off party or to the family hockey night for $99.95.

http://shop.nhl.com/

Of course, if you really want to go all out and spend some serious coin on your sports fan to let them know that they are loved and that they can watch their game in their special Habs (or any other team) throne, the TSN shop sells these Montreal Canadiens Big Daddy Leather Look Poly Urethane Recliners for $999.99.

https://tsnshop.ca/detail/3165

FOR THE FAMILY COOK OR GOURMET

Looking for a fun stocking stuffer for a tea lover and want to go with something that's bound to give them a giggle every time they brew up their favourite loose tea, this Rock Climber Tea Infuser is perfect and cute.

Selling for $10 online at Amazon, the HIC Harold Import Tea Infuser with Drip Tray, Rock Climber, can be filled up with the loose tea of your choice and it's actually a great eco-friendly gift as it does away with those pesky tea bags.

www.amazon.ca

Also from Amazon.ca, if you want to give your foodie the latest in kitchen technology, these amazing new countertop gardens allow items like herbs and lettuces to be grown on your countertop year-round.

For the gardener, the Miracle-Gro AeroGarden doesn't just green up a space, but produces tasty herbs and lettuces and whatever else you want like to grow right before your eyes. Featuring three models, which range from $90-$265, these ultra space-age plant growers will bring the future to your kitchen and nutrition to your table.

www.amazon.com

For the wine connoisseur, the Xcalibur Corkscrew is a high-tech device that can have that pesky cork out effortlessly, in one simple motion.

Priced at $24.98 at Stokes, this handy device is fun to use as it not only extracts the cork with ease but also releases it simply. It also features an ergonomic design and comes with an extra worm screw and foil cutter.

www.stokesstores.com/en/gift-ideas/gifts-under-30/xcalibur-corkscrew

If your loved one is into beverage creations and wants something fun to play with this holiday season, a Soda Stream Starter Kit makes for a fun gift that the whole family can enjoy by making sodas at home.

This modern and sleek device can turn ordinary tap water into any kind of soda pop using the various sample syrup packages provided in the starter kit. Even if you're not a fan of traditional sodas, simply carbonating water to spruce it up a bit has its merits. Costs $129.99 at Canadian Tire.

www.canadiantire.ca

For the serious caffeine addict, consider an environmentally conscious espresso machine.

At Canadian Tire this Cuisinart Espresso Machine runs for $149.99 and is guaranteed to please your coffee lover. This machine has 15 amazing bars of pressure, a 53-oz removable reservoir, brews one or two cups using ground espresso or pods (in case that's all you have) and features a stainless-steel nozzle for cappuccinos or lattes.

www.canadiantire.ca

The perfect gift for the person who is always cooking large meals for the entire clan and has a busy schedule, Crock-Pots allow the cooking to happen while you are away at work or taking care of other things.

And if your home cook is in need of a new one or your budding chef is looking for a home-cooking solution that goes well with family life, this Crock-Pot 6qt Smart Pot Slow Cooker with Probe and Digital Countdown could be the thing for them!

Only $68.93 at Walmart, this Crock-Pot of the future features an interactive interface that makes programming meals easy, uses a smart set probe that allows you to set the time and temperature, has three heat settings and is super easy to clean.

www.walmart.ca

Soda Stream Starter Kit, White

Miracle-Gro-AeroGarden-Indoor

Cuisinart Espresso Machine

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The contest runs from October 3, 2014, through December 5, 2014, and is open to members of the Cree nation living in one of the Native communities of Eeyou Istchee who are at least 18 years of age. Limit of one entry per person per day. The winner will be announced at 8:00 a.m. on December 10, 2014, during the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS.

Wilson Cell Phone Signal Booster

This indoor grill not only makes a wonderful surprise for Christmas morning but is the gift that keeps on giving.

The T-Fal OptiGrill takes all of the guesswork out of indoor grilling as it comes with six pre-set cooking temperatures and cycles for red meat, poultry, burgers/sausages/lamb, sandwiches, fish/seafood and a manual function for those looking to do something more specialized. Great for grilling any ingredient at any thickness, this baby features 600 cm^2 of cooking surface, detachable dishwasher safe plates and many other functions.

As grilling is a great way to retain the goodness in your food while doing away with excess fat, this gift is great for those looking to get or stay in shape. Priced at $178.88 at Walmart.

www.walmart.ca

GADGETS AND GOODIES FOR THE TECHNICALLY INCLINED

If that special someone on your list happens to be into Star Wars and Apple products, the folks at Thinkgeek.com have something right up that person's alley with the Bad That's-No-Moon Rising Death Start Bluetooth Speaker.

Providing for wireless sounds from up to 30 ft. away, this speaker system is a statement piece for your nerdy love's office, living room or bedroom as it lights up when in use and is easy to set up. At $59.99 US, this item embodies fandom meeting function meeting outright fun.

www.thinkgeek.com

For the gamer on the go, the MOGA Ace Power controller allows for transforming an iPhone into a game controller. Compatible with iPhone 5s, 5c or 5 and 5th-generation iPod touch running iOS 7, this accessory provides for a full set of console-style controls such as dual analog sticks and L1/R1 and L2/R2 shoulder buttons, a D-pad and four action buttons.

Compatible with an incredible amount of games and apps, the MOGA Ace Power Controller also extends your battery life while you are playing as it can charge your phone like an auxiliary power source. It sells for $79.95.

http://store.apple.com/ca

For the person in need of constant connectivity while on the road, the Wilson Cell Phone Signal Booster might be just the gift for them as it can boost your signal in your car, giving you bars where you may not have had them before.

While it looks like a small cell-phone cradle, it's an easy-to-use device that is geared towards hands-free operation in conjunction with a headset or Bluetooth device and reduces dropped calls, extends signal range and increases data while amplifying signal strength in weak coverage areas. Costs around $100.

www.futureshop.ca

Because you can't beat the Beats by Dr. Dre, Beats Studio Over-Ear Headphones are the ultimate in sound and design and are the next generation in headphone technology. Featuring a lighter, stronger and more comfy design than the first generation, these headphones are all about precision, bass and incredible Adaptive Noise Cancelling technology.

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At $330, these headphones may cost a pretty penny, but if the person you're trying to please is into music and recording music, they are a sure bet.

www.bestbuy.ca

As the next step beyond a super phone is having a smartwatch to control it remotely, the Martian G2G Smartwatch makes for a great gift as it features style and high-tech design while allowing the wearer to talk, listen and initiate voice commands while the phone remains at a nearby distance through the use of Bluetooth technology.

Compatible with a wide range of Apple, Android, BlackBerry and Windows-based devices, this handy device allows access to a broad base of functions such as the usual calls, SMS messages, Facebook and Twitter notifications, but also weather and calendar reminders. Ultimately practical for the techie on the go, this smartwatch retails for about $248.98.

www.futureshop.ca

For the adventurer or documentarian of the family, at the top of many a Christmas wish list this year is a GoPro camera and rightfully so as it is the most immersive "life capture" available on the market and nothing can quite replicate the experience of using one.

GoPro HERO3 Silver Edition Camcorder is currently available at Walmart for $339.99 and for that you get a device that features 1080p30 stunningly rich video, 5MP single photos up to three frames per second, and an ultra wide-angle lens. This camera is also waterproof to 131ft (40m).

Ultimately easy to use, with built in Wi-Fi, the user can control the camera remotely through the use of another device, like a phone or tablet.

www.walmart.ca

Men's UA ColdGear® Infrared Scent Control Evo Mock

FOR THE HUNTER(S) OF THE HOUSEHOLD

If your goal is to keep him unscented in the bush so that he can go undetected, the Underarmor (UA) Men's UA ColdGear® Infrared Scent Control Evo Mock (shirt) makes a killer baselayer and keeps all his manly scent locked in so that his prey will never smell him coming.

Designed to keep him warm and dry at the same time, this product now features a soft, thermo-conductive inner coating to absorb and retain body heat as well as a dual-layer fabric with "an ultra-warm, brushed interior and a slick, fast-drying exterior." Made with four-way stretch to accommodate mobility, this is some incredibly high-tech gear designed to keep him comfortable and cozy while out on the hunt. This item runs for $85.

www.underarmour.com

This Outdoor Edge SwingBlaze is a handy tool as it is a two-fer or a two-in-one that succeeds at being both effective as a drop-point skinner and a gutter.

Featured here in orange, according to Outdoor Edge, this is their biggest seller as the orange handle makes it incredibly easy to locate.

The GR20 series features 20-21Hp gas and diesel engines, hydrostatic transmission for hill climbing, power steering, shaft driven 48”-54” mower decks, hydraulic mower deck lift and cruise control. Optional attachments include: grass catcher, quick coupler hitch, sweeper, snowblower and blade.

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ATN Corp Night Cougar LT

Razor sharp, this knife promises to be so sharp that you can "open game like a zipper." Once more, the blade is designed to cut under the skin so that it eliminates the chance of cutting hair or internal organs. It's available from various retailers for around $70.

www.outdooredge.com

For an efficient skinning knife, this Havalon Knives Piranta-Edge Skinning Knife is the talk of the Internet as it is tough, dependable and ideal for field dressing deer, elk, bear and boar. For $44.99 at Basspro, this non-serrated skinner features a 2.75" blade, comes in easy-to-find orange and with 12 extra blades so that sharpening is never an issue.

www.basspro.com

AcuRite's Hunting & Fishing Activity Meter makes for a great gift as it can predict wildlife activity levels by combining weather observations with lunar positioning data.

Featuring AcuRite's patented self-calibrating technology, this device will give its user a personal forecast for 12-24 hours that is generated by weather data from a sensor that comes with the device so that it can inform you about where you are.

Easy to read and easy to use, this gem clocks in at $60 from various retailers.

www.acurite.coml

The ATN Night Cougar LT Night Vision Goggles will have your hunter's heart singing as they are high quality, fabulously functional, lightweight, compact, fog-and-water resistant, comfortable to use and among the clearest and brightest goggles available.

Billed as some of the smallest and lightest dual-tube night-vision goggle systems on the market, they feature a hands-free option as well as top quality night vision. Making them even more ideal for the north, they operate in -40 to +50°C and feature a wide 40° field of view, multi-coated all-glass lenses "and a powerful Total Darkness Infrared Illuminator System that provides the clearest and brightest images available in Generation 1 goggles," according to the ATN Corp website. Priced at $693.28.

www.amazon.ca

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Charting a musical path

N'we Jinan music project paves the way for a new recording label

by Amy German

Montreal hip-hop artist David Hodges first thought the N'we Jinan project would be a tour of Cree communities to promote musical talent with the youth. But the project has now given birth to a successful hip-hop album, N'we Jinan, Eeyou Istchee Volume 1, that is climbing the hip-hop charts on iTunes.

After taking the music project on whirlwind tour of Eeyou Istchee last spring and shooting several music videos, Hodges starting wondering, what's next?

Hodges got his answer few weeks ago when Daryl Hester, from the Cree Native Arts Crafts Association (CNACA), approached him to produce an album for Cree singer Mariame Hasni. The next logical step was to found a actual record label in partnership with the CNACA and Joshua Iserhoff, the Youth Grand Chief of the CNYC.

"I had an epiphany that N'we Jinan could go beyond a tour every year. We could have an educational approach and offer music to the communities, we could work with individuals or groups to help develop their careers from the ground up that would include the music, marketing, bookings and videos. It's quite the task but at the same time it's something that I can do," said Hodges.

According to Hodges, this venture gives the CNACA the means to invest in their artists with the backing of the CNYC. Working with Hasni, whose album is completed and now moves into the marketing phase, has given the emerging label a prototype as they are now involved in photo shoots, videos and bookings for their premier artist.

CNACA is backing the project financially with funding for projects and artists, Iserhoff brings his youth connections to the table, and Hodges adds his music-industry experience as well as his capacity for motivating youth, something he has done in high schools across Quebec for years.

"It's important that this label has representation from the Aboriginal community and Josh's part is really with the youth and with the music. He loves music and he is such an amazing singer. So for him to start this label is a dream come true; it's something that he has always wanted to do," said Hodges. "And together we get to do something that's super positive for the community."

At the same time, Hodges said not every artist who comes through CNACA would be working with N'we Jinan as they need to fit with the label's hip-hop, youth-oriented sound though they are not limited exclusively to hip-hop. Hodges said there would be room for other genres. One of the next goals for the label is to see how to break their artists into Aboriginal markets outside of Eeyou Istchee.

The label will continue to work with the artists who are on the original album as they just launched the I Believe music video online on November 4, a project that was filmed in Chisasibi last June.

"It was a great experience working on the video and the first time I got to go out to the bay in Chisasibi. It was beautiful and we got some incredible shots of Sigoun Wapachee singing there. We just wanted to have this represented in the video because this is Cree land and it is their bay," said Hodges.

According to Hodges, another N'we Jinan video launch is in the works and other projects are lined up for 2015 with Nemaska's NorthStars hitting the studios to record their own project in February.

As for a repeat tour of last year's musical recording project, for the time being that remains undecided. But those interested in purchasing N'we Jinan merchandise can go to: www.notrehome.ca/nwe-jinan-eeyou-istchee-tour.html

Hi, my name is Xavier, and I am an Internet addict

by Xavier Kataquapit

It's hard to believe how much life has changed since the Internet started to develop in the mid-1990s. When I first started writing I would send my stories to publications by fax. Then along came email and my job got a lot easier.

Once browsers became popular and easy to use I found I could look up so many things on the Internet. In the early days of this development I did a lot of research online and my use of the library fell off substantially. By the mid-2000s I found that I did not have to leave home to research a topic.

Websites became popular and just about every business, government agency, publication and writer had one. So, I learned to make them and put a few together for myself. It was quite a learning curve and complicated at first but over the years I have honed my skills.

It just amazes me at how fast and how much the Internet has developed in less than a couple decades. Everything you ever wanted to know exists on the net. You can find a new friend, fall in love, get a job, order just about anything, study the history of anything or anywhere, look up information on biographies of the famous and not-so-famous characters of history, watch television, take in a great movie, book hotels and flights, read newspapers from all over the world and check the weather for tomorrow or next week. There are so many other things you can use the net for but that's all I could think of at the moment.

How on earth did we ever do anything without the Internet? Well, you have to admit we did a lot more moving around to seek information. We had to actually go to a theatre or at the very least watch the TV to be entertained. For research or to read a foreign newspaper we had to visit the local library. That meant a drive or walk and some interaction with other humans. If we wanted buy some item we had to head out to a department or hardware store. That meant a good amount of timing browsing around on our feet.

For company we actually had to sit down with family, loved ones or friends for a face-to-face conversation. That meant at least a short walk or drive to enjoy someone's company. We could actually shake their hands or maybe even give them a big hug or kiss. If we wanted news we might have to walk or drive to the nearest place to pick up a newspaper and then find a good spot to read it while sipping on a nice hot coffee or tea. So, I have come to the conclusion that although the Internet has been such a great discovery it has turned many of us into out-of-shape slaves.

Think about it. Television was bad enough as most of us should admit we have always spent too much time watching the boob tube. However, since the development of the Internet many of us have turned into some type of computer, laptop, smartphone zombie. The first thing we do in the morning is check our email, or more currently check for any texts on our smartphone, maybe do Facetime or Skype to chat with a family member or friend and then for a good part of our day we are glued to these devices. That means we are generally not moving very much and that is really bad for the health. I am sure that there has been an increase in all kinds of health problems because people have been spending too much time sitting and glaring at all kinds of monitors and screens. Heart disease, diabetes, circulation problems and weight gain must be increasing because of our addiction to the Internet.

Sometimes I just can't believe how far I have drifted from living on the land. I miss the sound of the trees moving in a soft breeze. I yearn for the smell of a pine forest and the sound of a northern lake lapping at the shore. When was the last time I looked into the eyes of a fox or lynx on a trail? Hmm, well you know I'll bet there will soon be holographic apps for all that. Then I won't even have to get out of bed.

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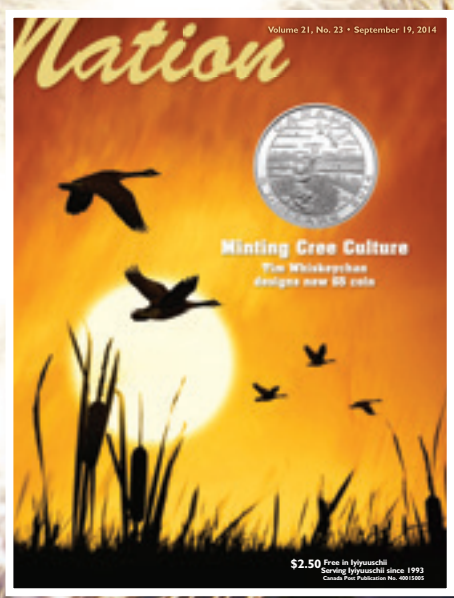

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